From: pamela winters
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: BDS Proposal
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:42:41 AM

Denise…Thank you so much for your reply….If it does come before the Council on the 23rd…I will be there to talk….
Again, your response is much appreciated…..
Best, Pam Winters

On Apr 18, 2018, at 3:42 PM, Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Winters,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: pamela winters <pamharry87@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 3:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: BDS Proposal

Greetings to the Cambridge City Council!

I am writing to you in objection to the resolution boycotting HP for business done in Israel, sponsored by BDS, whose leaders are dedicated to Israel's destruction.
As a Cambridge resident since 1974, I love this city and would hate to have it labeled an anti-Semitic city. I was proud of the fact we were the first city to acknowledge gay marriage; we welcome immigrants, etc.
Israel's establishment of a Palestinian site is a goal that Israel shares. I have to ask you: "Why Israel"? There are so many other countries that do horrible things….China, Pakistan, etc….How would we feel if Mexico were lobbing bombs at Texas? Israel has a right to defend itself against people who strap bombs to themselves to blow up innocent civilians. Since 2000, 171 suicide attacks, 805 Israels died and 964 were injured (Wikipedia). In 2013, 3 teenagers were kidnapped and killed.
If you read about the history is Israel, it was given them them in 1948 by the British. It was a desert occupied by Arabs, Jews, and others. It was not a government and Israel had a choice to throw out people who were not Jews; they chose not to, and now there are many Palestinians living in Israel in harmony with Jews. Hamas, on the other hand, a terrorist organization, rules Palestine.

I served on the Planning Board for the city for 15 yrs and worked with Community Development before then on zoning issues.
Leaders such as Obama, John Kerry, Joe Kennedy, Duval Patrick all reject BDS. As Tom Friedman from the NYTimes says: "Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic, but singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanctions out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest.

I am not a Jew, in fact I'm an Irish citizen (dual citizenship), but feel strongly about this issue. Keep in mind that Israel is the only Democratic state in the Middle East. Ask yourselves.."Why Israel?" and maybe read a book on Israel in the past 70 yrs. to see its history. Please don't label my city that I love as anti-Semitic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pamela Winters
41 Orchard St.
617 864 8199.